

**STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD**

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

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PHONE: 916 / 322-1082 • FAX: 916 / 445-0738 • TDD: 916 / 324-2555 • INTERNET: conservation.ca.gov/smgbALLEN M. JONES, CHAIR
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**Notice of Availability of an Initial Study and
Notice of Intent to Adopt
a Mitigated Negative Declaration
for the Hanson Aggregates Pacific Southwest, Inc. Otay Ranch Pit Amended
Reclamation Plan**

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (PRC Section 21000 et seq.), the California State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB), as lead agency, has released an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) Report for the Otay Ranch Pit mine reclamation plan, California Mine ID # 91-37-0035. The Initial Study and proposal to adopt a mitigated negative declaration was circulated for public review on April 21, 2006. This environmental document has been filed with the State Clearinghouse (SCH) and has been assigned SCH #2006041118. The SMGB encourages all interested parties to review the IS/MND and submit written comments by close of business **May 30, 2006**.

The proposed amendment is primarily designed to implement a change to the mine reclamation boundary to incorporate areas of excavation that extend beyond the mine's current reclamation plan which is in the jurisdiction of the City of Chula Vista, California.

The proposed project addressed in the IS/MND is the implementation of an amended mining reclamation plan for the Hanson Aggregates Pacific Southwest, Inc. (Hanson Aggregates) surface mining operation located adjacent to the Otay River within the community of Chula Vista in southwestern San Diego County, California. The reclamation plan is presented in the *Hanson Aggregates Pacific Southwest, Inc. Otay Ranch Pit Application for Reclamation Plan Amendment* (November 3, 2005), prepared by the Diepenbrock Harrison Professional Corporation for Hanson Aggregates, the project applicant. The amended reclamation plan is to supercede the original reclamation plan (Plan No. 79-09) for the Otay Ranch Pit.

The Otay Ranch Pit operation is a hard rock quarry producing crushed aggregates. Due to a survey error that occurred in the year prior to December 2001, mining operations on the Otay site extended beyond the boundaries of the approved Reclamation Plan. As a result of this activity, the existing approved Reclamation Plan has been modified to insure that all affected areas are subject to the requirements of the amended plan. In addition, the time period for the 20-year estimated life of the operation has passed. The project applicant proposes to modify the time period to more accurately reflect the estimated longevity of quarry operations.

The proposed Reclamation Plan Amendment would address areas on the mine site that have been disturbed outside of the existing approved reclamation plan limits and would identify a new estimated termination date for mining and reclamation activities. The amendment would also:

- Describe the proposed land use at the end of reclamation;
- Increase the area of the reclamation plan to account for areas that were accidentally disturbed as the result of a survey error;
- Identify the proposed expiration date for the surface mining operations of December 31, 2025;
- Provide visual screening of excavation areas;
- Establish detailed mining and reclamation phasing plans;
- Adopt more effective topsoil recovery and management practices;
- Establish a seeding program and revegetation standards;
- Adopt drainage and erosion control measures;
- Establish weed control requirements; and
- Establish monitoring requirements.

Adjacent land uses do not include residential uses or other uses that are sensitive to noise and dust generated by ongoing mining activities or proposed reclamation activities. The proposed reclamation boundary adjustment includes lands that have been designated by the City of Chula Vista for habitat conservation.

All interested parties are encouraged to submit written comments on the initial study to:

Mr. Stephen M. Testa, Executive Officer
State Mining and Geology Board
801 K Street, MS 20-15
Sacramento, California 95814-3528

The document is also available at the Chula Vista Planning Department in Chula Vista, the Civic Center Branch of the Chula Vista City Public Library in Chula Vista, and the Board's office in downtown Sacramento

All substantive comments on the initial study/proposed negative declaration must be considered by the project decision-makers (the SMGB) prior to adoption of the mitigated negative declaration and approval of the project. The SMGB will consider adoption of the mitigated negative declaration and approval of the project at a public hearing. The time and location of this hearing will be publicly noticed at least 10 days in advance of that hearing.